

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 12th March 1904.

CONTENTS.

Page.

Page.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

Extension of the Indian Empire under Lord Curzon	243
England and the Russo-Japanese war	244
The outlook for India	ib.
The Tibet expedition	ib.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police—

A dacoity in Tangail in the Mymensingh district	244
A dacoity at Narandia Doulatpur in the Mymensingh district	ib.
A case of dacoity at Jamda in the Burdwan district	ib.
Complaint against a panchayet	245
Police oppression at Deoghar	ib.
Attempted outrage on a female in Baharpur, Goalundo	ib.
Ill-treatment of pilgrims at Sitakund in the Chittagong district	ib.
Dacoities in Khargpur and Narayanagarh	ib.

(b)—Working of the Courts—

Mr. Tilak's acquittal	245
Mr. Tilak's acquittal	246
Cess revaluation work in Bankura	ib.

(c)—Jails—

Nil.

(d)—Education—

The Sanskrit College and the Sanskrit examinations	246
The new affiliation rules of the Allahabad University	247
The Primary and Middle Scholarship examinations	ib.
Suggestions for the improvement of a <i>tol</i> in Rangpur	248
Science-teaching in primary schools	ib.
Course lists for the primary and middle schools	ib.
Abolition of the vernacular examinations	ib.
The new scholarship rules	ib.
The translation paper in the Entrance examination	249

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—

The Calcutta Municipality	249
The Khulna municipal trenching-ground	ib.

(f)—Questions affecting the land—

Nil.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—

Railway complaints	249
Tariff rates on the Assam-Bengal Railway	250
Overcrowding in a railway train	ib.
Re-excavation of canals in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district	ib.

(h)—General—

The Viceroy in Eastern Bengal	250
Protest meetings	251
Mr. Garrett and the <i>Hitavadi</i>	ib.
Lord Curzon at Dacca	252
Lord Curzon's Mymensingh speech	253
The Viceroy in East Bengal	254
The Viceroy's East Bengal speeches	ib.
Lord Curzon's speeches in East Bengal	ib.
Maharaja Jotindra Mohan Tagore on the Viceroy's Dacca speech	255
A scandal in connection with the departmental examination	256
Proposed division of Mymensingh into two districts	ib.
Lord Curzon in East Bengal	ib.
Rumoured territorial redistribution of the Burdwan Division	257
The Viceroy's speeches in East Bengal	ib.
Lord Curzon in East Bengal	ib.
Liquor shops near the mills on the Hooghly river	258
West Bengal in the dismemberment question	259
The rumoured addition to the number of Deputy Magistrates	ib.
"Caste distinction in public service"	ib.
Bihar and Chutia Nagpur in the partition question	ib.
The partition question	ib.
Local option and the new Excise Bill	260
Mr. Yakchee, the Superintendent of the Board of Revenue	ib.
The partition question	261
"What have we learned from the agitation?"	ib.
Standing crops damaged by Mr. Garrett's shikar party	ib.
The proposed partition of Bengal	ib.
The partition question	ib.
The Viceroy's East Bengal speeches	262
Rumoured appointment of Mr. K. G. Gupta to the Bengal Board of Revenue	ib.
The partition question	263
The Viceroy's visit to East Bengal	265

Page.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The Official Secrets Act ...	265
The passing of the Official Secrets Bill ...	ib.
The Official Secrets Act ...	266

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

Nil.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Distress in Balasore ...	267
Famine in a village in the Burdwan district ...	ib.
Distress in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district ...	ib.

Page.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Government disregarding public opinion ...	267
The Viceroy not <i>salaamed</i> in Mymensingh ...	268
A poem ...	ib.
The Victoria Memorial ...	ib.
"Sovereign and subject" ...	ib.

URIYA PAPERS.

The weather ...	269
The health of Cuttack town ...	ib.
The death of Dr. Mahendra Lal Sarkar mourned ...	ib.
Cholera in Balasore town ...	ib.
The Head Master of the Balasore Zilla School ...	ib.
Dacoity in the Balasore district ...	ib.
The territorial redistribution question ...	ib.

ASSAM PAPERS.

A candidate for a literary pension in Sylhet ...	269
Lord Curzon on the proposed partition of Bengal ...	270

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th February has the following:—

HITAVADI,
Feb. 26th, 1904.

Extension of the Indian Empire
under Lord Curzon.

Never did the Indian Empire so extend its limits as it is doing under British rule. The Empire has so grown towards the east, towards the west and, in fact, in all directions, that it is impossible to say what extent of territory will satisfy the Government of India's greed. Extension is impossible towards the south, because India is bounded on the south by the Indian Ocean. And no one ever thought that the present rulers of India would attempt an extension beyond the high, snow-clad cliffs of the Himalayas. It is only the eastern and western scientific frontiers which were considered to be capable of constant variation. But it is now seen that the redoubtable hero, Lord Curzon, has girt up his loins to send troops to Tibet in order to bring the unfortunate Lamas from darkness into light. One is, therefore, forced to think that at last a time of misfortune is coming for the Tibetans. On one side the Russian Bear is advancing with cautious strides; and, on the other, the British Lion is roaring across the Himalayas. This is undoubtedly a very critical situation.

The people of Lhasa, who consider it the highest religious merit not to kill any creature of God, never cultivated the art of warfare. How long, then, can they hold out against Western civilisation, which looks upon, and takes a pride in the possession of, brute force as the highest earthly treasure? There may probably be a war between England and Russia, and as its consequence, Tibet will lose its independence. The greed of European nations will not be gratified even if they devoured the whole universe. Asia and Africa are already teeming with Europeans. Survival of the fittest is the law of the universe. It is nothing but foolishness, in this age, to think that good will come of one's renouncing all worldly affairs in favour of a life of devotion and depending upon fate for one's protection.

What have we not seen during the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon? Lord Curzon is a man who contains in himself the combined power of a hundred Emperors. His achievements within this short time have not been few. He sat on the throne of the Emperors of Delhi and made a display of the prowess of Akbar. In resolving upon the erection of the Memorial Hall he took up the rôle of Shahjehan. In conquest, he has beaten Alexander and Bonaparte. As regards the introduction of rigorous laws and repressive measures, his doings have excelled these of Aurangzebe himself. And, besides these qualities of a ruler, His Excellency possesses learning, eloquence, power of hard work, and many other noteworthy accomplishments. It would not, indeed, augment Lord Curzon's glory if during the Commander-in-Chiefship of Lord Kitchener and during the Viceroyalty of an energetic young man like himself, Emperor Edward VII's Indian Empire were not extended. The conviction is, indeed, taking a firm hold of our minds that Lord Curzon will not go away till he has succeeded in causing conflagrations in all directions.

The Western nations, it would seem, have come into the world only for doing good to it. The mission of the white men on earth is to civilise the uncivilised, to enlighten the ignorant with the light of knowledge, and to make those, who do not know anything about trade, enjoy the benefits of free trade. They have also no equal in the art of imposing upon others their own ridiculous religious beliefs. First of all, they send out missionaries. Then the missionaries pick a quarrel with the people of the country to which they are sent by abusing them and their religious beliefs. Next, cannon and ammunition appear on the scene for the protection of the missionaries! That is the way in which the Eastern countries are brought from darkness into light! A similar fate is going to overtake Tibet.

The people of India entertain no fear, it is true, of being invaded by foreign Powers, but the fear, lest the expenses of the conquests which the Government is bent upon should fall on their shoulders, has made them uneasy. The British Government has indeed promised that such expenses should not be thrown upon the Indians. But it is difficult to say how far this promise will be fulfilled in practice. It would be a very oppressive burden on the people of India, if even a fraction of the expenses were thrown upon them.

The country is growing poorer, every class of the people is in straitened circumstances, the door of luxurious living has been thrown wide open by unrestricted commerce, and, over and above all, everybody is smarting under heavy taxation. It will not be advisable, under these circumstances, to waste money on the luxury of a war.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
March 1st, 1904.

2. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 1st March says:—

England and the Russo-Japanese war.

The present is a supremely lucky moment for the English Government. Japan is a prospective enemy, and Russia is already one in fact. The struggle in which they are engaged now is sure to weaken both. If Russia beats Japan and then annexes Manchuria, Korea, and finally China, we do not know what England will do to defend India. But if Japan wins, then England is sure to take the lion's share of the spoils. Not the English alone, but all the European nations combined will then perhaps prevent Japan from occupying a foot of land in China. She will thus lose the best part of the spoils of war.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS
HABUL MATEEN,
March 7th, 1904.

3. The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Habul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 7th March has the following:—

The outlook for India.

A rumour is current that if Russia fights with England in Tibet, she will induce Persia to attack India simultaneously with her. In such a case the Amir will not disallow the allied army of Russia and Persia to pass through his dominions. The Amir is not on good terms with England, because the latter refused his request to keep an Afghan political officer in London. This refusal cannot but dissatisfy him.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 8th, 1904.

4. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March has two cartoons on the Tibet Expedition.

The Tibet Expedition.

The first represents some Indian raiyats reduced to skeletons, and scantily clothed. The sense of the letter-press is that the foreign master is acquiring fame and territory at the expense of the starved and naked Indian.

The second represents a buriy Englishman, who is made to say that the Indians are to suffer the trouble and the Englishmen are to enjoy the fruits of the victory.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 23rd, 1904.

5. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 23rd February says that on the 5th *Falgun* last, at midnight, some fifty or sixty

A dacoity in Tangail in the Mymensingh district.

dacoits attacked the house of Gour Chand Modak in village Narandia Doulatpur, thana Kalihati, in north

Tangail. Two young men were severely assaulted, and about ten thousand rupees (in cash and ornaments) were carried away. The dacoits left after a stay of three hours.

The disturbed state of North Tangail has been repeatedly noticed in this paper. Armed *lathials* constantly go about in bands.

CHARU MIHIR.

6. Referring to the dacoity at Narandia Doulatpur village, the *Charu*

A dacoity at Narandia Doulatpur in the Mymensingh district.

Mihir [Mymensingh] of the 1st March says that the police investigation has not yet resulted in the arrest of the dacoits. The authorities should

engage an able detective to find out the offenders. Owing to the increase in the number of lawless characters in these parts, life and property have become quite insecure.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 1st, 1904.

7. Referring to the case of dacoity at Jamda [see Report on Native Papers of the 5th March 1904, paragraph 4] the

A case of dacoity at Jamda in the Burdwan district.

Burdwan Sanjivani [Burdwan] of the 1st March says:—

We said something in our last issue regarding the impression of the villagers about the dacoity at Jamda. The impression was completely without foundation. A police officer happened to be present at the village on the night of the dacoity, and the dacoits chose that particular night for the attack. To connect the two facts as cause and effect is a pure assumption. There cannot possibly be any connection of the police officer with this occurrence.

That the dacoits marched off under the very nose of the police is certainly a matter for the villagers to complain of, but who, without arms, relying on others equally unarmed, would dare to attack or arrest the dacoits? The dacoits do not fear the police, nor do they at all need their assistance.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
March 2nd, 1904.

8. A correspondent of the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 2nd March says that there is no assistant panchayet to help the panchayet for Akandaberia and the villages Kenna, Bhagyamantapur, Gobri, Chotipur Nowda, etc., in thana Kaliganj, district Nadia. The tax which is assessed is not properly distributed among the villagers. If the amounts were fixed according to the means of the asseesseees, there would be no difficulty in collection. The respectable people of the villages mostly reside elsewhere.

The amount at which they are assessed when they are in the village is often increased or diminished when they are away from it.

HITAVADI,
March 4th, 1904.

9. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th March charges the Inspector of Police at Deoghar with high-handedness and want of consideration on the occasion of the last Sivaratri Fair at that place. He is said to have abused and assaulted one *pandā* for nothing and called another, the son of the head *pandā*, "low-born." He did not give the head priest an opportunity of entering the temple, although the prescribed time of worship was passing by. Many gentlemen and ladies were also harassed.

10. A correspondent of the same paper says:—

Attempted outrage on a female
in Baharpur, Goalundo.

Some days ago, acting on instructions from the authorities at Goalundo, the head daroga of Balia-kandi thana came to Baharpur, stayed there for ten or fifteen minutes, and made inquiries about the character of Golam Ally. Many respectable men bore witness to his bad character. The daroga did nothing except asking them not to write about the matter to the *Hitavadi* newspaper. Again on Sunday, the 2nd *Falgun* last, Alimoddi Shekh, a chaukidar of this village, started on his rounds, leaving his young wife at home. The ruffian Golam Ally entered her room at midnight, but awoke her by treading on her hand. She screamed and, lighting a lamp, recognised Golam Ally. The chaukidar, who was now returning home, failed to arrest Golam Ally, but his cries and those of his wife attracted others, who all came and identified the fleeing miscreant. On Friday, the Daroga Babu appeared on the scene of the occurrence and took down the evidence of the complainant and his witnesses. But unfortunately he has not yet sent up the accused for trial. The complainant is poor, while the accused has both men and money at his back. Probably the result of this case will be the same as in that of Ahar Bibi. It is hoped the authorities will look into this matter.

HITAVADI

11. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th March contains a complaint about the ill-treatment by the police of pilgrims at Sitakund. It is stated that, on the 13th February last, about 4,000 pilgrim of all classes were assembled at the place. The police attempted to control the crowd at the entrance to the *kunda*. When words had failed, they laid about with sticks. The Police Inspector then said, "Only those who pay a tax of seven annas per head will be allowed to enter the *kunda*." Those who had the money with them paid the sum down and were allowed to enter. The others went back disappointed. Under whose orders was this tax levied?

BASUMATI,
March 5th, 1904.

12. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 9th March praises the local police for having succeeded in arresting many dacoits, mostly of the Lodha caste, who were concerned in the recent dacoities in the villages included in Khargpur and Narayangarh thanas. Some of the stolen property has also been recovered.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
March 9th, 1904.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

13. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of 6th March says:—

Mr. Tilak's acquittal.

Happy news! Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak has been acquitted by the High Court. He has been declared not guilty and free from blame.

RANGALAY,
March 6th, 1904.

Mr. Tilak was sentenced by the District Judge to 18 months' rigorous imprisonment and fine. Sir Lawrence Jenkins, the Chief Justice of Bombay, and Mr. Justice Baley have reversed the decision of the Lower Court. Mr. Tilak has been acquitted on all the charges.

We have not been the bearers of such joyful news for a long time. Sir Lawrence deserves our thanks. We do not know in what language to express our hearts' feelings. Glory to English rule, glory to the English nation. Tilak who is so dear to us, remains with us.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 6th, 1904.

14. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 6th March says that congratulations are being sent to Mr. Tilak from all quarters on the happy termination of his long and severe trial and persecution. The Dacca People's Association wired to him, "Please accept our warm congratulations on your just acquittal by the Hon'ble High Court."

BANKURA DARPAN,
March 8th, 1904.

15. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th March says that the work of cess revaluation has commenced in Bankura. But the privilege of filling in the returns and sending them by post has been withdrawn this time. Sending returns by post is not contrary to law, and it saves a great deal of expense and inconvenience. The Magistrate is asked to attend to the matter.

(d)—Education.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 26th, 1904.

16. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th February says that formerly only eminent pandits in each branch of Sanskrit learning were appointed professors in the Sanskrit College. A former principal of the college used to say that only such pandits ought to be given the appointments as had a reputation for learning which would enhance the glory of the college; and in making appointments he always followed that principle. But, unfortunately, the qualification required nowadays in a pandit of the Sanskrit College is not very high. Any one who can ingratiate himself with the Principal or can procure the recommendation of an influential person can now secure a Panditship in the institution.

Great jobbery is now committed in the appointment of pandits in the Sanskrit College. Last November advertisements were published inviting applications from candidates for filling in three Professorships in the college. But the disparity in the pay of the three posts having led the correspondent to make an enquiry, he came to know that, in spite of the advertisements, the Principal had already selected the men whom he would appoint, that the pandit selected for *Vedanta* was an M. A., and would get a salary of Rs. 100, that the pandit selected for *Smriti* being the principal's particular favourite would get a salary of Rs. 75, and that the pandit selected for the professorship of *Nyaya*, not having any intimate relations with the Principal, would get only Rs. 50 a month. Pandit Prasanna Tarkanidhi, the man appointed to the last post, is an old man past fifty, and though he is proficient in *Navya Nyaya*, is quite ignorant of *Prachin Nyaya*. It is also a wonder how the pandit came to be styled *Nyayatirtha* in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 13th January last, seeing that he had never passed the examination in *Prachin Nyaya* and had never got the title by which he was styled. Was this a blind for the Government?

It is not known if and when Rajendra Vidyabhusan, who has been appointed professor of *Smriti*, read *Smriti* with any professor. He passed in *Kavya* from Mulajor and immediately afterwards went to serve as a teacher in the Jessore school. There was no professor of *Smriti* at the time in Jessore. He next came to Calcutta to serve in a college. He did not read *Smriti* with any professor during this period also. He, however, took up his lodgings in Patal-danga and, strangely enough, after two or three years' residence there succeeded in passing an examination in which even very intelligent students do not venture to appear without a thorough and careful study of the subject with a professor for five or six years.

Why did the Principal advertise for candidates when his choice had been already made?

A similar injustice was done last year to the eminent pandits who applied for the post rendered vacant by the death of Pandit Jaynarayan Tarkaratna in Navadwip. An unknown student of Bhatpara, namely, Bisweswar Tarkaratna, was appointed to the post in supersession of the claims of men who were recommended by eminent pandits of Navadwip. The result has been that the *tol* of Jaynarayan Tarkaratna has disappeared from Navadwip and students from a distance do not come to read *Nyaya* with the new professor.

The Sanskrit examinations, too, which are held under the direction of the Principal of the Sanskrit College have, of late, very much deteriorated in quality, in consequence of the departure from the former practice of appointing none but eminent pandits as examiners. One now comes across students who have passed the examinations without having acquired any proficiency in the appointed text-books or without having even read them.

Government would do well to appoint a Committee consisting of the Principal of the Sanskrit College, two learned men who know both English and Sanskrit, and two Mahamahopadhyayas, to spend the annual grant of Rs. 21,000 for Sanskrit education and to appoint professors when vacancies occur.

17. Referring to the rules which have been formulated by the Syndicate of the Allahabad University for regulating the affiliation to it of new colleges, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd March writes as follows:—

The new affiliation rules of the Allahabad University.

SANJIVANI,
March 3rd, 1904.

Many people think that these rules are the fruits of the Simla Education Conference. We simple-minded Indians only see the fruits, because Government conceals from us the tree which bears them. One who goes through the rules is led to think that they were framed with the purpose of making provision for a number of white men. It has been ruled that none but Europeans should teach English literature. A Frenchman, a German, and a native of any European country will be eligible for a professorship of English literature, but not a native of India. Does the Syndicate of the Allahabad University mean to indicate, by these rules, the path which will be followed by all other similar bodies in India after the passing of the Universities Bill? If so, will any new private colleges be affiliated? Will education spread in the country if no new private colleges are affiliated? Lord Curzon is talking grandly over the matter, but his words have failed to convince anybody. Everyone believes that the Universities Bill is meant to circumscribe the sphere of education in the country, and the action of the Allahabad University has had the effect of confirming this belief.

18. Referring to the Circular No. 17, dated the 20th January 1904, issued by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, containing new rules for the award of Primary and Middle scholarships, the same paper writes as follows:—

The Primary and Middle Scholarship examinations.

SANJIVANI.

The authorities are to be commended for the provisions they have made for poor and helpless boys, but the method which has been prescribed for selecting candidates for the scholarship examination is astonishing. The examination of accounts, etc., leaves very little time to the inspecting officers to pay much attention to the examination of boys, and it is a suicidal policy to depend on such examination for the selection of students for the scholarship examinations. Again, any inspecting officer, who has been dissatisfied with the authorities of any school for not having been properly received by them or for any other reason, may make his examination of the students of that school very difficult, or may not even examine them at all, with the result that the prospects of many of them will be ruined. Then, again, it is the practice in every school to hold test examinations for three or four days two months before the final examinations. Now it will be impossible for the inspecting officers to be present at all the schools at one time. Consequently they will select candidates by nominal oral examinations six or eight days prior to the final examinations. All this will have the effect of excluding many deserving students from the scholarship examinations, and consequently inducing the school authorities to charge the inspecting officers with partiality and unfairness. In our opinion the power of selecting candidates should be vested in the schoolmasters, and none should be eligible for a scholarship examination who has not passed in the 1st Division in every subject, has not kept an aggregate of two-thirds of

the full number of marks in an examination held two months before the final examination, has not read for at least one full year in the school from which he desires to appear, and is not of a certain prescribed age. In this manner the number of candidates may, as desired, be greatly reduced. Moreover, when there is no provision for giving even so much as certificates to passed students, no schoolmaster will make any undeserving student take all the trouble and expense of undergoing an examination.

RANGPUR
VARTABAHA,
March 4th, 1904.

19. The *Rangpur Vartabaha* [Rangpur] of the 4th March says:—

Suggestions for the improvement of a *tol* in Rangpur.

There is a *tol* here in the house of Babu Jadaveswar Sarma, but it is not doing satisfactory work. It should be seen that instead of being

held at the house of the pandit in charge, the *tol*, like other schools, is located at a fixed place in its own separate building and that it regularly performs its daily work. It is also desirable that some local men proficient in Sanskrit or Government's own officers should be empowered to visit the *tol* weekly and see that the pupils are being properly taught there.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
March 4th, 1904.

20. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 4th March says:—

Science-teaching in primary schools.

An important feature of the new scheme of educational reform is the stress that is being laid

on the need of teaching science in primary schools. But the arrangements made for such teaching are proving unsatisfactory for want of good teachers and suitable apparatus. So long as better men are not forthcoming, a teacher who has passed the final examination of the Normal School and possess a fair knowledge of science may do. But in many cases it is a mere waste of time and money to try to teach science through teachers who have passed only the Middle English or the Middle Vernacular examination.

The following extract from the report of the Australian Education Commission may be read in this connection:—

"Elementary science should be taught in primary schools by persons previously taught by qualified specialists. The teachers should have had the opportunity of confirming their knowledge by actual experiment. Mere literary attempts to learn science are of small value. The training of the teachers affects the instruction given in the schools."

In those primary schools where there is only one teacher it will be sufficient if that teacher has passed the final examination of the Normal School and has a fair grounding in science. Every school should be supplied with the instruments necessary to demonstrate the elementary facts of science.

BASUMATI,
March 5th, 1904.

21. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th March says:—

Course lists for the primary and middle schools.

The list of text-books for the primary and middle schools is published in the Gazette every year, but there should be a fixed time for its

publication. The list is now published after classes have been formed after the annual examinations. It is then sent to the mufassal schools in the form of a circular from the office of the Inspector. According to the circular of the Director of Public Instruction [Circular No. 52, dated 31st March 1897] new sessions now commence on the 1st October. But last year the list of text-books was published in the middle of November. A similar difficulty had occurred before. This put the students to serious inconvenience. Government should attend to this. The authors of school-books also suffer greatly from this late publication of the course list. If it is published some months in advance, they can have time to print their books leisurely and better. Whereas its publication after the sessions have commenced obliges them to hurry up.

Government should ask the Director to see that henceforth the list is published at least in June, if not earlier.

BANGAVASI,
March 5th, 1904.

22. Referring to the new rules relating to the vernacular examinations, *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th March observes that

Abolition of the vernacular examinations.

Government professes to be specially anxious to extend primary education. But there can be no

doubt that the new arrangement will hinder rather than promote the cause of primary education.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 6th, 1904.

23. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 6th March says that the new rules for the award of Primary and Middle scholarships will be likely to do more harm than good.

The new scholarship rules.

The method laid down for the selection of candidates for the examinations will be a fruitful source of injustice to schools, for it will be impossible for the inspecting officers to make just selections, seeing that they visit each school not more than once or twice in the course of a year. Besides, what boy will like to go through the hard work required for passing the examinations, when there is no prospect of getting even a certificate if he fails to get a scholarship and when promotion to higher classes will not depend upon the results of the examinations? One, indeed, fails to see the necessity or usefulness of the examinations.

The rule that scholarships will be awarded to poor or orphan boys, whose conduct is good, in preference to sons of well-to-do parents, is certainly commendable. But will it not put a stop to all competition and take away the only inducement which makes boys appear at the examinations?

The truth is that the new rules will damp the energy of the boys and do away with the incentive which leads to their intellectual progress. Government ought, therefore, to reconsider and amend the rules.

24. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March complains of the anglicised Bengali used in the first day's paper in the Entrance examination this year :—

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 9th, 1904.

The translation paper in the Entrance examination.

(1) ঘরটে শেবক—ঘরটে is the Sanskrit for grinding mill and শেবক is that which grinds. It is a funny compound—this grinding mill grinder.

(2) Palaces and cities are represented as existing in a particular country, and still that country is called the country without inhabitants.

(3) A camel is represented as thrusting its nose through a window. One cannot imagine what must be the dimensions of this window.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

25. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 2nd March says :—

The Calcutta Municipality.

The wretched condition of the native quarters as contrasted with the European wards of the town is defended by the Municipality on the plea of want of funds. But the Commissioners are trying to bring out an Accountant on high pay from England, and proposing to lay out a crore on the improvement of the city. Of course Government is willing to contribute something and also to sanction the raising of loans. If we make any protest, some big official will perhaps reply that the authorities understand these things better than we can. But mere thrust and parry with words will do no good. The time is approaching for the plague to increase. Why does not the Municipality keep a sharp look on the centres from which the disease spreads?

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
March 2nd, 1904.

26. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 3rd March says :—

The Khulna municipal trenching-ground.

The municipal overseer never visits the trenching-ground. He never pays a visit to the place except when the Sanitary Commissioner is known to be coming, and as for the Chairman, he went to the spot only when the Sanitary Commissioner went there. There is nobody to see if the Sanitary Commissioner's instructions are carried out or not. Hence cholera and malaria are rife at Beniakhmar. Again, the land which has been acquired for the projected new trenching-ground is in the heart of a populous part of the town, and when it begins to be used for the purpose, cannot but prove a nuisance to the inhabitants. The matter should receive the attention of the higher authorities.

KHULNA,
March 3rd, 1904.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

27. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th March publishes the following railway complaints :—

Railway complaints.

HITAVADI,
March 4th, 1904.

(1) Since the 1st January last, with the abolition of the express train, the mail trains (up and down) have ceased to touch at Muslandpur station. This has greatly incommoded the villagers of Basirhat, Punra, Baduria and at least twenty or twenty-five other villages, and

special office men and suitors from Calcutta, Alipur, and the like. For the office employes the night mail is the most convenient.

During the rainy season this year there was the express train, and a steamer in connection with it used to run every other day from Gobardanga. The express train has unfortunately now ceased to run, and the steamer cannot now go up to Gobardanga because of the insufficiency of water in the Jumba. There is no train now available in connection with the steamer.

(2) In the two trains which now run, there is only one compartment with four benches for females in each train. The accommodation provided is evidently insufficient. At least one entire third-class car should be reserved for females to relieve the pressure on accommodation which has prevailed since the abolition of one of the trains.

The authorities have raised a cry that the Bengal Central Railway does not pay its way; hence the abolition of the trains. People are harassed when buying tickets and find no time to book their luggage. The authorities charge five seers as ten; passengers consequently bribe the porters to bring in their luggage. There are no separate booking-offices for the third and intermediate classes, and although separate cars are provided, there is nobody to prevent third-class ticket-holders going to intermediate class. With these inconveniences how can the railway be made profitable?

28. The same paper says:—

Tariff rates on the Assam-Bengal Railway.

The Traffic Manager of the Assam-Bengal Railway issued a notice on the 29th December last to the effect that a special class truck full of rice would be charged a pie for every five miles from Akhaura to Chittagong and from Srimangal to Halikhuli. But from Chandpur to Tinsukia the rate would be a pie for every six miles. An anna and eleven pies would be added as fare for 115 miles to the fares from Akhaura to Chittagong and from Srimangal to Halikhuli. Those who bring rice from Chandpur to Tinsukia pay seven annas four pies. For bringing rice from Karimganj to Tinsukia one has to pay seven annas six pies. The distance of Karimganj from Tinsukia is less than the distance of Chandpur from Tinsukia by 238 miles. Yet people have to pay 2 pies more. According to the rate of fare from Chandpur to Tinsukia, the fare from Karimganj to Tinsukia ought to be four annas eight pies. Thanks to the Company's excellent arrangements, over 15 days elapse before goods reach Tinsukia from Karimganj. Will the authorities look to this?

29. Babu Priyanath Banerji, of Rishra, writing to the same paper, says:—

Overcrowding in a railway train:

Owing to the annual festival at Belur, there was great overcrowding in the train which left Rishra for Calcutta at 2-36 P.M. on the 21st February last. Every third-class compartment held 20 passengers. A young woman, with no one to look after her, almost fainted from the heat. At Konnagar a railway assistant came, but went away without rendering any assistance.

30. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 9th March states that Govern-

Re-excavation of canals in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district.

ment has this year sanctioned a grant of Rs. 9,211 for the re-excavation of various canals about the Jalamuta and Majnamuta villages in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district. Owing to the silting up of many of these canals, the water in the rainy season finds no outlet, and the surrounding cultivable land is flooded. But the amount of the grant is too small for the purpose. Government ought to set an example in these matters to the landlords.

(h)—General.

31. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 23rd February writes as follows:—

The Viceroy in Eastern Bengal.

Lord Curzon has come and gone. He expected that by the weight of his presence, the charm of his oratory, and the pointedness of his arguments he would be able to cow down the Mymensingh people. But he expected in vain.

We did not think that a man who aspires to be the Prime Minister of England could come with such baseless arguments before an educated audience.

HITAVADI,
March 4th, 1904.

HITAVADI.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
March 9th, 1904.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 23rd, 1904.

We had heard that he was an orator of extraordinary power. We do not deny this. But contact with a proposal which is abnormal in its character made his speech inconsequential.

When he spoke, the anger visible on his face greatly marred the effect of his speech.

The audience thought he was speaking not as a Viceroy but as a Member of Parliament aiming keen shafts of criticism at his opponents.

The Mymensingh people are everywhere talking of one particular passage in his speech, namely, "If the so-called partition were carried out to-morrow by a stroke of the pen."

We cannot disbelieve the evidence of our ears. But we do not see the expression "by a stroke of the pen" in the report of the speech published in the Calcutta papers. What is the reason?

We saw Lord Curzon in three different places in three different aspects. At Chittagong he restrained himself to a certain extent. At Dacca he quite let himself go. At Mymensingh he poured out all the latent heat in his mind.

We never saw any Viceroy so far forget himself, and were surprised to see his angry face at the Mymensingh meeting. The spirit and language of his speech makes us ashamed. He forgot the dignity of his office while speaking. He was merely taking his revenge.

Did he come to Eastern Bengal to strike at the root of the present agitation merely by threats and frowns? If he had that intention it has completely failed.

The public are deeply distressed at the proposed partition. We had hoped Lord Curzon would remove their fears by sweet and hopeful assurances. Instead of doing so, he has only added to their mortification by his harsh and cruel language. We fail to see why Lord Curzon came to Eastern Bengal at all. It was a mere waste of money. His visit has only added to the existing gloom.

Lord Curzon has said. "The leaders of the agitation are frightening the zamindars and raiyats by false and groundless statements." What can we say in reply to this? The zamindars are neither ignorant nor barbarous people. They are quite able to understand the effects of the Government's proposals.

Lord Curzon is an orator, but his speech has only made everybody hopeless. There was absolutely no argument in his speech, only reproof. The Viceroy was not ashamed to quote assertions which the leaders of the agitation never made. He had recourse to sharp words only because he felt the weakness of his arguments.

Lord Curzon has ended his arguments, but the agitation is not yet at an end. Bengal cannot be partitioned on such flimsy pretexts. So we have no reason to lose hope. It is our belief that Western Bengal will take up the agitation. Soon the echoes of this movement will reach England, and the futile nature of the Viceroy's arguments will be exposed there. And English statesmen will not allow Bengal to be partitioned merely on the strength of such futile arguments as have been employed by the Government of India.

The people of Dacca and Mymensingh are not barbarians. They were not backward in showing due respect to the Viceroy. The Eurasians and Europeans once united in showing disrespect to the saintly Lord Ripon. That was completely opposed to Indian ideas. The people of Mymensingh received Lord Curzon with due honour.

32. The same paper contains notices of fifteen meetings held to protest against the proposed partition of Bengal.

Protest meetings.

CHARU MIHIR,
Feb. 28rd, 1904.

33. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Rajshahi] of the 24th February says:—

HINDU RANJIKI,
Feb. 24th, 1904.

Mr. Garrett and the *Hitavadi*. Some unjust and malicious aspersions are made against our worthy Magistrate in the *Hitavadi* of last week. They are all false and evolved out of the correspondent's imagination:

(1) The horse which was bought for the Kumar of the four-anna Putya estate was new. Mr. Garrett kindly undertook to break the horse in. There was no accommodation for the Kumar's polo horses in the stables of his hired house. The new stables cost the four-anna estate only fifty rupees—a smaller sum than would be required to build stables at the Kumar's house and pay the necessary qualified trainer.

(2) Mr. Garrett did not compel any gomasta or cultivator to sow barley, nor did he take any barley for himself. The four-anna estate keeps up a great many horses and elephants, and it would be a great gain to the estate to raise the barley necessary to feed these animals on the estate itself rather than to buy it. Mr. Garrett simply advised the Manager to introduce the cultivation of barley on the estate.

(3) The statement that Mr. Garrett compelled people to pay subscriptions on the occasion of the Races is a fabrication. He thankfully accepted what was voluntarily given. In fact, he took nothing from many in consideration of their pecuniary condition. The money was spent in amusements acceptable to the native community. Native gentlemen were specially welcomed to the Races this year. Mr. Garrett himself invited them to join, and never before was there such a cordial meeting between Europeans and Indians. As to the assault on the Brahman mentioned in the *Hitavadi*, Mr. Garrett had nothing to do with it. We know he forbade the constables to harass the sight-seers.

(4) The case of the Subdivisional Magistrate of Nowgong is *sub-judice*, so we should not express any opinion on it.

(5) The *Hitavadi* asserts that some vakils are special favourites of Mr. Garrett. To engage them is to win the case. Also that more applications and appeals are now rejected than under former Magistrates. It is very wrong to give currency to such false rumours. Mr. Garrett deserves the thanks of the people of Rajshahi for his heart-felt efforts for their improvement.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 25th, 1904.

34. Referring to Lord Curzon's Dacca speech, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 25th February writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon at Dacca.

His Excellency made a long speech; but, unfortunately, he made no attempt to calmly and impartially discuss the momentous question on which he was speaking, but busied himself wholly in defending his own views. He failed also to preserve the equanimity which might be expected from an official of his position and excitedly attacked the supporters of the opposite view, though his own words proved that the alarm created by the Government proposal was not baseless. To remove this alarm, His Excellency made certain new proposals, saying that he had come to Dacca to give certain explanations about the point of view of the Government which, owing to the fact that their proposals had been put forward in a necessarily condensed fashion in a single official letter dealing with questions of vast complexity covering an immense range, had inevitably been left in some obscurity. It is needless to discuss here the new proposals made by the Viceroy. Government must now admit that it ought to have made these proposals at the very beginning, as no harm would have been done if Mr. Risley's letter had been a little longer than it was. If Government's reticence was the cause of the popular alarm, was the public to blame for it? Most probably, the new proposals would not have been made but for the popular agitation. The Viceroy began by saying that he wished everybody to speak out his mind freely. But did not His Excellency hear how the Dacca District Board was made to adopt a got-up address and the people were, thereby, made to say what they did not really wish to say? Why did not the Dacca authorities give the District Board members perfect freedom in drawing up their own address? His Excellency attacked the Mymensingh Association in a very excited manner for its action in instructing the villagers as to how meetings were to be held and in trying to collect subscriptions. When His Excellency said that he had received proofs of the manner in which the agitation had been got up, we thought that the agitation must have been got up in a very reprehensible manner, indeed. But we were astonished when His Excellency produced no other proof than a copy of the circular which had been issued by the Mymensingh Association. Was there any harm in telling the village people what they were to do and how they were to proceed? How many people in this country know what they are to do when they wish to agitate against a Government proposal? Had there really been no alarm in the minds of the people, would it have been possible, at all, to induce them to hold meetings and pay subscriptions? Does not political agitation require money? If it does, where is the money to come from, if not from the pockets of the people? It is true the Mymensingh Association told the Mymensingh people that they had not been able to realise as fully as had been done by the Dacca

people the danger that they might be in. Was not such remonstrance perfectly natural and reasonable for people, who in perfect good faith believed that a serious calamity was going to befall their country? Does not Lord Curzon know that "whips" have to be employed in England even to bring members of Parliament to the House? His Excellency said:—"You say that if it be absolutely necessary to lighten the charge of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, sever something else; sever Bihar, sever Orissa, sever Chota Nagpur, but leave us alone. Perhaps, it does not occur to you that they may be saying the same thing about you." They might, it is true, say that. But should it not be considered whose argument would in the present case be the more reasonable—the argument of the Bihar, Orissa or Chota Nagpur people or the argument of the East Bengal people? Has not Mr. Risley himself admitted in his letter that it is natural for people who speak the same tongue and have other intimate relations to wish to live under the same administration? His Excellency said that, considering that the population of East Bengal far exceeded that of Assam, it was not right to say that East Bengal was going to be placed under Assam, but that it would be more correct to say that Assam was going to be placed under East Bengal. His Excellency would be right if the question of subordination depended upon population. But the question really depends upon the locality of the capital and the system of administration that is introduced. If the ruler of Dacca and Mymensingh lives at Shillong and rules those districts on the Assam system of administration, would not that have the effect of making them subordinate to Assam? Did not the residents of Paris, alone, rule over the entire French population during the period of the French Revolution? Does not England rule over three hundred millions of Indians? His Excellency also said that it was the educated people who had incited the ignorant shop-keepers, cultivators, etc., to join the agitation, because it was impossible for such ignorant people to form by themselves an estimate of the effects that the proposed change was expected to produce. But does it require intelligence of a very superior order to see, on the one hand, the advantages that the Bengali people derive from living under the same administration and being, thus, politically united, and on the other, the disadvantages that would follow from a separation? One wonders what Lord Curzon would have had to say if he had witnessed the wave of feeling that swept over the country at the time of bidding adieu to Lord Ripon. What did the common people understand about the boon of local self-government or about the Ilbert Bill? All they knew was that Lord Ripon was a ruler who loved his subjects, and that knowledge filled their hearts with loyalty.

Though Lord Curzon's visit to Dacca was made the occasion for many grand doings, everything, however, appeared soulless, because there was no joy or enthusiasm in the people's minds.

35. The same paper received the following in English from a Mymensingh correspondent regarding Lord Curzon's speech at that place:—

Lord Curzon's Mymensingh speech.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 25th, 1904.

During the whole time of the reply he was attempting to check his feelings. He characterised Mymensingh as the home of the agitation, and its representatives as the leaders of the agitation; some of the objections were characterised as foolish and baseless. According to the Viceroy, the masses were deceived and, in his opinion, if the partition was carried out by a stroke of the pen to-morrow, not a single one of them would be in the least degree a loser. His Excellency further said he had heard that a few thousand people were brought here a few days ago (meaning the last mass meeting on the 17th January) on a misrepresentation of the actual Government proposal. The Viceroy attempted to belittle the agitation, and questioned its genuineness. We were pained to hear such a poor reply from such a distinguished statesman. The speech was lamentably wanting in logical arguments. About ten thousand people came from the mufassal to place their grievance before the Viceroy, and, having no means of approaching His Excellency, were patiently waiting outside the Maharaja's compound to hear what His Excellency had to say. They seemed to be highly disappointed when they heard the report of the Viceroy's speech, and promised doing constitutionally everything for averting the present calamity.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Feb. 27th, 1904

36. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 27th February has the following :—

The Viceroy in East Bengal.

The Viceroy's speeches in East Bengal have only added to our despair. His Excellency has calmly ignored the wails of the entire population. The opinions of veteran officials like Sir Henry Cotton and Sir Charles Stevens have gone for nothing. What we are pained to think of is our present fate and the future of our country. No mere vague words can compensate us for the loss of our future hopes.

Ever since you came here you have always tried to keep us quiet by sweet promises, while all the while you have been engaged in cutting the ground from under our feet. Your first achievement was the appointment of a large number of Eurasians to the higher posts in Government offices. Your second was the Delhi Darbar. Your third was raising money for the Memorial Hall. Your fourth, the Universities Bill. Your fifth, the partition of Bengal. Your sixth is the Official Secrets Bill. Your seventh, the Tibet expedition. Your eighth achievement was your longing for the ivory art-work of the Maharaja of Benares. For every one of these you have earned our gratitude. We do not know how long it will be before we are spared these unsolicited benefits.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 28th, 1904.

37. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 28th February writes as follows :—

The Viceroy's East Bengal speeches.

Lord Curzon's East Bengal speeches, which it was expected would remove men's fears and soothe their minds, have, by a singular irony of fate, spread terror and dismay. It is a pity and a shame that the representative of His Majesty the King-Emperor has, by emitting poison in East Bengal, cast an indelible stain on the fair name of civilisation.

What can be a matter of greater regret than that His Majesty's representative in India should have indulged in inconsistent, irrelevant, and illogical statements? And the reader of Lord Curzon's East Bengal speeches is astonished to find that not one of the arguments used by His Excellency in those speeches can bear examination in the light of actual facts. It makes one's hair stand on end even to imagine that the man who aspires to the highest place open to a subject in the British Empire should feel no delicacy or hesitation in trying to spread horror and dismay among 1½ crores of the inhabitants of East Bengal by means of worthless arguments. From the commencement to the peroration, the speeches are marked by a tone of sarcastic haughtiness, a continuous dreadful roaring accompanied by the waving of the forefinger, and a spirit of contempt and ridicule against the natives of the country.

The question now is, when our agitation has been disregarded here, can we crave the mercy of our most honoured and respected Sovereign? We think Lord Curzon has been greatly mistaken in his views. The days are gone by when one could get a thing done by means of threats. Justice has now come to be known to everybody, from the child to the old man, from the poorest peasant to the most wealthy lord. No amount of roaring will be able to compel men's submission so long as the holy standard of justice is not raised before them.

The speeches are marked by three defects, namely, inconsistency, irrelevance, and want of logic. As an instance of inconsistency, one may refer to the fact that while the Viceroy rejected Mr. Cotton's opinion on the ground that the latter "unquestionably and inevitably wrote as a Bengal officer," His Excellency accepted the opinions recorded by Sir John Woodburn and Sir James Bourdillon, who were also Bengal officers. Again, even if Sir John and Sir James are supposed to have given their opinion in favour of a territorial redistribution, how can it be said that they favoured such redistribution on the proposed lines? There are also other inconsistencies in the speeches. The trend of the speeches is that only those who share His Excellency's views on the partition question are intelligent men and the rest are fools. Any other person, excepting the Viceroy, entertaining such a view, would have been simply laughed at. "But," as the *Englishman* says, "the Viceroy can afford to be illogical."

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
Feb. 28th, 1904.

38. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 28th February writes as follows :—

Lord Curzon's speeches in East Bengal.

Lord Curzon fully believes that he is the absolute monarch of India, and that the mighty

power he wields is not a whit less than that of the Tsar of all the Russias. And what strengthens this belief is the fact that while there exists a popular power in Russia, namely, that which the people constitute, there is no such thing in India. Lord Curzon seems to be under the impression that all the opposition in the country has its root in Calcutta—possibly in the offices of the *Bengalee* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, and that the editors of these papers are the only intelligent men in the country. Such is Lord Curzon, young and powerful, the arbiter of India's fate; and if he calls the wealthy, time-honoured veterans of East Bengal dunces and imbeciles, who is there who would dare contradict him? But we can go so far as to say that Lord Curzon's speeches have been no better than the utterances of a wealthy heir gone mad with rage. His arguments have excited our smile whilst giving us offence. We smile because the speeches are not worthy of an orator like His Excellency, and we are offended because it is through his unjust desire that we are going to lose our peace and happiness for ever. Alas! there is no one in the world who can change his mind.

Lord Curzon has said that he is very frank. It may be so, because "frankness is the staff on which crookedness leans." If "frankness" means abusing the audience in unequivocal language, then, of course, he is truly frank. How is it that, coming to East Bengal with the avowed object of making himself thoroughly acquainted with the wishes of the people, the Viceroy refused to see any of them? It is very strange that while accepting the address in which he was praised for some of his acts as an address unanimously agreed to by the entire population, he taunted those who opposed the proposed dismemberment as a microscopic minority. It was perhaps believed by him that every illiterate peasant in these parts approved of the addresses that were meant for him, and that the originators of the protest meetings in villages were a few English-knowing persons instigated by certain designing men in Calcutta! Fine frankness this, no doubt, with which he came to East Bengal, and valuable indeed was the information which he gathered there.

Fools that we are, all that we have understood from a perusal of the accounts of the Viceroy's travels in East Bengal is that the primary object of His Excellency's tour was to satisfy his craving for addresses and allay the itching sensation of his tongue. Verily his tour resembled the mufassal tour of a zamindar. The Viceroy did not ask anybody his opinion, but merely gave utterance to certain trite arguments against what the people had said; and by severely scolding the agitators, attempted to show the hollowness of their agitation. Thus did he make the task of sending a despatch to England easy for him and then came away. In his despatch he will unhesitatingly write:—Not only do the people not object to the proposed transfer to Assam, but the more intelligent and influential among them (their names, of course, must remain secret, these people being no other than Messrs. Garth and Savage and the Nawab of Dacca) rather welcome it. Admirable frankness this, no doubt! Did any one ever witness the like? Where was the necessity of wasting so much public money in coming to East Bengal if His Excellency's mind was already made up? He might have declared from Calcutta that the agitation was groundless. No one certainly was over-anxious to get rebuked in such foul and angry language.

Did not Your Excellency say in your speech in the Barakar coal mines: "I had to address the coolies in coal mines in order to get myself elected as a member of Parliament"? If you thought it right to humour the coolies in coal mines in order to prove your worth, was it then unjust or unnecessary on the part of the agitators to rouse their illiterate countrymen to a sense of their impending calamity? Is it criminal to explain to the people, who are ignorant of the English language, the mischievous character of the proposals published in the *Gazette*? Is it for this that Lord Curzon has introduced the Universities Bill? O Lord Curzon, we have not yet fully realized your greatness. Who knows when we shall be able to do so?

39. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 1st March publishes the following letter written by Maharaja Jotindra Mohan Tagore to the Secretary to the Mymensingh Association on the subject of the Viceroy's Dacca speech:—

Maharaja Jotindra Mohan Tagore on the Viceroy's Dacca speech.

The Viceroy's Dacca speech has been criticised rather freely by all the Anglo-Indian dailies with almost an unanimity of

CHARU MIHIR,
March 1st, 1904.

opinion. The speech, with its voluminous arguments, is an ingenious one, but I cannot say that it has been convincing to any person. The *Englishman* of the 20th instant contains a very able notice of the speech in the article headed "Lord Curzon at Dacca."

Personally I have every sympathy with the object of every movement protesting against the proposed dismemberment which has caused such grave alarm and excitement among the people of almost all the important towns of Bengal concerned. Owing to my advancing age and impaired health, I am physically unequal to the task of co-operating in the present, or in fact, any public movement. But I find that the British Indian Association is already moving in the matter and doing all that is needful. . . .

CHARU MIHIR,
March 1st, 1904.

40. The same paper says:—

A scandal in connection with the departmental examination.

It appears from a letter written by the Secretary to the Central Examination Committee to the Divisional Commissioner, that at the departmental examination held in November last, many Deputy Magistrates were suspected of copying and obtaining unfair assistance. The Committee inquired into some of the cases, and found the charges true.

Babu Bhujendra Narain Mukerji, Deputy Magistrate at the sadar station of this district, and Babu Atul Gopal Roy, Sub-Deputy Magistrate at Kishoreganj, appeared at the last departmental examination. Recently each has been degraded to the last place in his own grade. The public are anxious to know if this has any connection with the examination scandal. If students had behaved like this at examinations, severe punishment would have been meted out to them. If the cause of degradation be the same in this case, then it is desirable that they should be divested of their judicial powers and transferred to some other department.

CHARU MIHIR.

41. The same paper says:—

Proposed division of Mymensingh into two districts.

Although it is certain that Mymensingh will be split up, still the Bengal Government has not yet come to a final decision on the question. There is just now a proposal to form a district out of the Tangail and Jamalpur subdivisions. If Mymensingh were annexed to Assam, then it would not be surprising if parganas Sherpur and Susang on the northern frontier of the district were included in the Garo Hills district.

There are various suggestions as to the site of the sadar station of the proposed new district. No place near the Jumna would be free from objections. In North Tangail, the Jhinaida is the only stream which flows all the year round, but even that stream is shallow. In the rains, many parts of Tangail are under water. Wherever the sadar station be located, unless a railway is run through the Tangail subdivision, the difficulties of the people will be increased a hundred-fold. It is to be hoped that the authorities will consider all these points before fixing on a site for the sadar station.

CHARU MIHIR.

42. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 1st March says:—

Lord Curzon in East Bengal.

No one has been satisfied with Lord Curzon's angry speeches at Dacca and Mymensingh. The educated community all over Bengal are frankly expressing their disappointment at his utterances.

Lord Curzon stated at Dacca that he came to East Bengal to acquaint himself with the feelings of the people. About twenty thousand people from the mufassal were present at Mymensingh to represent their views to him. But they could not even approach the Meeting Hall, which was guarded by the military police. Lord Curzon had no talk on the partition question with a single person educated or otherwise. We are therefore curious to learn by what means, by what contrivance, Lord Curzon has acquainted himself with the opinions of the public.

We repeat that the Bengalis are neither fools nor barbarians. They are quite able to see the hollowness of Government's arguments. Lord Curzon has not been able to veil that hollowness by a mere cloud of words.

We do not know what is happening behind the scenes. But from the inditing of Mr. Risley's letter to the time of Lord Curzon's speech at Mymensingh, Government has changed front so many times that we cannot but conclude that the partition proposals are not based on a firm foundation.

In the course of his speech at Dacca the Viceroy said :—

"Now, Gentlemen, it would be premature for me to discuss any such suggestion at the present stage, because it has never yet been placed officially, and I have no knowledge whether it will be so placed before the Government of India, nor have I heard fully expounded or declared the arguments by which it may be supported."

Yet at Mymensingh Lord Curzon tried to answer the objections of the public by assuming the existence of these proposals. We are astonished to see this new departure in the science of logic.

Many are asking, "What was the object of Lord Curzon's visit to East Bengal?"

In his Dacca speech, Lord Curzon has himself stated that he had two objects in coming to East Bengal—(1) To gather local opinion, (2) to explain fully the Government's proposals.

It is needless to say that in his first object he has entirely failed. The representatives of the people requested an audience but were refused. He might as well have heard all that he has heard here from the lips of the officials at Calcutta.

We have come to know from Lord Curzon's speech that—

"Personal supervision, care and control, are the object for which Local Government exists."

It is because personal rule is not now practicable for the eighty millions of Bengal that Government wishes to split up the province into two.

If Lord Curzon's idea as to the duties of the Provincial Government are to be carried out in practice, it is doubtful if eight hundred divisions will afford satisfactory results.

The relations of the Ruler of Bengal with his province are the same as those of the Viceroy with all India. What officer in his old age can make the acquaintance of even one-eighth of the eighty millions, and decide everything after personal inspection? Thanks to his high office, Lord Curzon can make any assertion with impunity.

43. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 1st March says:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 1st, 1904.

Rumoured territorial redistribution of the Burdwan Division.

The Lieutenant-Governor had a long conference with the Divisional Commissioner and six Magistrates. The results of the conference are unknown to the public. But some are saying, "Kalna is certain to be included in Hooghly." Some again say, "Arambagh is going to be transferred to Burdwan and Raniganj to the new district of Asansol. Bankura is going to be a subdivision of Asansol, which will also include Bishenpur. And some portions of Bankura, viz., Indas thana and the villages included in Indas, are going to be brought under the sadar subdivision of Burdwan. And Howrah is to be raised to the full status of a district." We can place no faith in these rumours. But if Government creates a North-Eastern Frontier Province out of Eastern Bengal, and makes over parts of Chota Nagpur to the Central Provinces, then it naturally follows that some such great change will be effected.

44. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 1st March observes:—

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
March 1st, 1904.

The Viceroy's speeches in East Bengal.

Our Viceroy has, by his honeyed words, poured balm on the wounded hearts of the people of East Bengal. He has in effect said, "My beloved subjects, it will greatly be to your benefit if East Bengal is cut off from West Bengal and united to Assam. You do not see that now, but you will, in time." He will be an enemy to his country, who, lulled by this sweet and bitter speech of the Viceroy, assents to the partition.

45. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 2nd March has the following:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
March 2nd, 1904.

Lord Curzon in East Bengal.

Lord Curzon's East Bengal speeches are a remarkable instance of the false position in which even an intelligent man places himself when he sets about advocating a weak cause. His Lordship is a brilliant Eton scholar. But his highly ornate language could not hide the poverty of his thought. Nor can the reddened eyes and the terrific frowns, too plainly indicative of regal wrath, resist the force of true arguments. Lord Curzon is the worthy representative of our most worthy Sovereign and, as such, entitled to our respect. But even if we regard him as extraordinarily

intelligent, we cannot take him as infallible. He is liable to error like the rest of humanity. Lord Curzon may think the Bengalis stupid. But were it not for the peculiarly sacred position which he occupies in regard to ourselves, we should summarily and contemptuously reject all that he has said.

The truth is that the poverty of Lord Curzon's reasoning is becoming more manifest with every new speech he is making. His language, though poetical, has nothing of the deep gravity which is the mark of the true statesman. The speeches he has made in East Bengal can leave no doubt in any mind on that point. Those speeches of his appear to us to be a mere waste of Viceregal power. Even Anglo-Indian papers like the *Englishman* and the *Pioneer* admit that His Lordship has failed to answer the arguments of the people.

Lord Curzon may abuse the Bengalis as he will, may throw them into prison on charges under section 124 of the Indian Penal Code, if he likes, and may even hang the agitators on the gallows in a moment. But it is not in his power to defeat in argument the people of this country so justly famous for its logicians. We have referred to some of his fallacious arguments in our preceding issue (see Report on Native Papers of the 5th March, paragraph 18). We shall refer to one or two more in this issue.

Lord Curzon has learnt from the Census Report that only a small portion of the people of Dacca know English. Seeing, therefore, placards in English deprecating the proposed partition on all sides, this syllogism at once started up in his mind :—

The majority of the people of Dacca do not know English.

The placards are in English.

Therefore, the agitation must be a spurious one.

Too much speechifying has the effect of weakening the judgment. What wonder, then, that the same effect should follow from the same cause in Lord Curzon's case also ?

It is strange that it never occurred to Lord Curzon that he himself did not know Bengali and the placards had therefore been written in English. The people have no choice but to make use of English in making their prayers to the English officials who do not know the vernaculars of the province. This is a practice which is followed every moment in the law-Courts. No one, therefore, but a person whose brain was extremely deranged could have rushed at once to such a conclusion. The placards in English might have pained Lord Curzon in another way. It showed too plainly that the people do not think him omniscient and a polyglot.

Another conclusion of His Lordship with regard to these placards is equally remarkable. He reasoned as follows :—

The majority of the people of Dacca are ignorant of English.

These placards are in English.

Therefore, these placards must have been sent from Calcutta.

Now, this reasoning has caused us more pain than what we should have felt if even hundreds of Daccas and Mymensinghs had been swallowed by the sea, for it shows that the brain of our Viceroy, who is entitled to our deep reverence, is deranged.

Passion perverts judgment, and we learn from the *Charu Mihir* that in speaking at Mymensingh Lord Curzon showed himself as anger personified and brought down the stick in his hand, from time to time, with tremendous force on the table before him.

If Lord Curzon did really display this fierce attitude, he acted in a manner unworthy of the representative of the Sovereign.

46. The same paper writes as follows :—

Liquor shops near the mills on the Hooghly river.

Who is responsible for the existence of this evil ? There are many mills on the right bank of the Hooghly. The labourers in these mills are unintelligent and illiterate, so that it is very easy to tempt them. Knowing all this, the authorities have permitted liquor shops to be opened in the bazar near the mills. What can be more regrettable ? It is to be hoped that means will be devised whereby these illiterate and unintelligent peasants may

be saved from ruin. The Temperance Association of Calcutta should also look to this matter.

47. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd March writes as follows:—

West Bengal in the dismemberment question.

Bengal has endured many blows. But if Lord Curzon divides her, she will not be able to raise her head within a hundred years. We want to be united; Lord Curzon wants to separate us. Nothing short of the united agitation of East and West Bengal will do any good. But if even such agitation cannot shake Lord Curzon's *aid*, let arrangements be made to carry the matter into England. If we be earnest in this agitation, God, if not man, will help us. Who can divine the Almighty's purposes, and the means by which He accomplishes them? Let us trust in Him, vehemently agitate for the good of our mother-country, and leave the consequences in His hands.

48. The same paper says that the work which the Deputy Magistrates and the Sub-Deputy Magistrates are required to

The rumoured addition to the number of Deputy Magistrates.

do is light in comparison with that required of the Munsifs and the Sub-Judges, and still the Government is going to increase the number of the former instead of that of the latter. It is rumoured that no less than 80 new Deputy Magistrates will be appointed. Why are the authorities so eager to strengthen the Executive? The new appointments should, if made, be made on the results of a competitive examination and not by nomination. Sub-Deputies also should be promoted to be Deputy Magistrates.

49. An advertisement, says the same paper, has appeared in an up-country

"Caste distinction in public service."

newspaper to the effect that only European and Eurasian youths of ages between 18 and 20 will be admitted in the Government Telegraph class at Lucknow. This advertisement is evidently based on the resolutions which were passed by the Railway and Telegraphic authorities in a secret meeting held at Delhi on the occasion of the Delhi Darbar. When the proceedings of this secret meeting were published in the *Sanjivani*, Lord Curzon denied all knowledge of it. Why does he not now take steps to suppress the above-mentioned advertisement, based, as it is, on an invidious caste distinction? Is it in this way that Her late Majesty's promise to the Indian people is being kept?

50. The same paper writes as follows:—

Bihar and Chutia Nagpur in the partition question.

In reply to the addresses which were presented to Sir Andrew Fraser by the Hazaribagh District Board and Municipality on the occasion of His Honour's recent visit to the Hazaribagh town, His Honour said that the arguments against the proposed transfer of a portion of the Hazaribagh district to the Central Provinces would be carefully considered by the Government. We know that neither Bihar nor Chutia Nagpur will be separated from Bengal, because those two places are much liked by white men. Lord Curzon himself observed at Dacca and Mymensingh to the effect that those two places would not be separated from Bengal. But, on the other hand, His Excellency is going to separate a part of Bengal from it, because white officials prefer service in Bihar to service in East Bengal. What a fine argument!

51. The following telegrams appear in the same paper:—

The partition question.

Sirajganj, February 27th.—"Magistrate of Mymensingh asked Secretary of Mymensingh Association whether he issued instructions not to *salaam* the Viceroy on his way from railway station to Maharaja's palace. Secretary told Magistrate that police instructed *chaukidars* to stand erect and not to *salaam* and *chaukidars* instructed people not to *salaam*. Secretary has written to Magistrate to communicate this to Viceroy, as it is said His Excellency became annoyed for people not *salaaming* him."

Tangail, February 25th.—"Last batch of men who went to Mymensingh on the occasion of the Viceroy's visit returned here. Viceroy's reply far from satisfactory, far less convincing. His reasons refutable. Mymensingh Association did not engineer agitation. Some meetings of Tangail subdivision held before their circular issued. From the last three lines of the circular it appears it was meant for those who sought instructions from Mymensingh

SANJIVANI.
March 3rd, 1904.

SANJIVANI.

SANJIVANI.

SANJIVANI.

SANJIVANI.

Association. Location of administrative seat at Dacca will not restore its past glory, its decline from 1800 was due to fall of muslin trade, not to anything else. No hopes, however tempting, will induce East Bengal to part from West Bengal."

Narayanganj, February 27th.—"At a public meeting held on the 27th February at Narayanganj, following resolutions were adopted. This meeting is of opinion that careful study of Viceroy's replies in several addresses at Dacca, Mymensingh, and Chittagong disclosed nothing to allay public alarm caused by Mr. Risley's proposal of transferring certain Bengal districts to Assam Administration. That in His Excellency's replies no new scheme definitely formulated. That this meeting is further of opinion that alternative scheme, only hinted in reply to Mymensingh address, even if carried into effect, will fail to give satisfaction, as any scheme aiming at division of Bengali-speaking people cannot but be highly injurious to people as a whole. Several gentlemen were elected delegates to represent the views of this meeting to Sub-Committee appointed by district delegates' meeting at Dacca for submission of memorial to Government against said proposal of Mr. Risley."

52. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th March says:—

HITAVADI,
March 4th, 1904.

Local option and the new Excise Bill.

About two-thousand householders of Calcutta have petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor paying that the new Excise Bill should contain provisions which shall make it necessary for the authorities to consult the inhabitants of a locality as to the number of shops for the sale of intoxicants to be allowed to exist in it. That the use of intoxicants is steadily increasing in this unfortunate country is evident from the increase of the excise revenue. It is also undeniable that under the existing excise rules the evil has gone on increasing instead of decreasing. If the tax on intoxicants is increased, it will add to the income of Government, but will it diminish their use?

It is a good sign that many people are now supporting the principle of local option. There is a provision in the existing law which recognises this principle, but that provision is not given effect to. Many question the honesty and efficiency of the officers of the Excise Department. It is said that, like the Police, they also are open to bribery. So the public do not expect much from mere rules. Considering that the majority of Bengalis are total abstainers, their convenience and wishes ought to weigh more with the authorities than the views and requirements of the comparatively few who use intoxicants. It behoves Government to keep a strict eye on the officials of the Excise Department; not to allow any shop to be opened in any locality against local opinion; and to see that no intoxicants injurious to health are sold to the public.

HITAVADI.

53. The same paper says that Mr. Yakchee, the Superintendent of the

Mr. Yakchee, the Superintendent of the Board of Revenue.

Board of Revenue, is as unjust and merciless towards the copyists as he is partial and indulgent to his favourites in the office. Mr. W. H. Smith, formerly of the Bengal Secretariat, was, on Sir James (then Mr.) Bourdillon's recommendation, taken in the Board's office temporarily for six months. After the expiry of that period Messrs Buckland and Wheeler, though they were not satisfied with his work, allowed him to remain on probation for another three months. Mr. Smith makes his subordinate clerks do almost all the work which his predecessor, Babu Pramatha Nath Chatterji, used to do with his own hand, and while away his time in Mr. Yakchee's room. Is it for this that Mr. Smith is allowed a salary of Rs. 500 per mensem?

Mr. Yakchee has another favourite in a Bengali clerk whose pay is Rs. 125 per month. Mr. Yakchee has assigned for him light and easy work suited to a petty apprentice on the ground that he is not fit to do more difficult work. So that this clerk spends the office hours in chewing betel and reading newspapers. On the other hand, many other clerks who do very heavy and hard work, receive much smaller salaries and ill-treatment from Mr. Yakchee in the bargain.

If any copyist or other person who is not a favourite of Mr. Yakchee applies for increment of salary, the latter suppresses his application, but any such application coming from his favourite clerk is eagerly forwarded to the Secretary with his recommendation. The other day a clerk asked for only two hours' leave on the ground of his son's illness, but was rudely refused,

even after his son was dead. But Mr. Yakchee had granted three days' leave to his favourite clerk to go to Burdwan on the occasion of the Maharaja of Burdwan's installation.

No Superintendent can lawfully grant to any clerk leave without pay or on a reduced salary. But Mr. Yakchee does that and passes orders on applications for leave, lest the Secretary should grant such applications with full pay. In consequence of this, the copyists under Mr. Yakchee seldom receive any leave with pay. His favourite clerk got leave with full pay for three days even after he had been absent for 17 or 18 days during the year, although no such leave is granted to any person who has been absent for even one or two days.

54. The *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 4th March says:—

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
March 4th, 1904.

The partition question.

In our opinion it would be expedient and beneficial from all points of view to keep all the Bengalis under one administration. But it is wrong to ascribe bad motives to Government for what they have proposed. If the Government proposals were carried out, it would only help to make the educated Bengalis predominant in Assam and the Central Provinces. We think these proposals were made purely out of geographical considerations, and they will be radically altered when all circumstances are taken into consideration. It is possible only in newly colonised countries with a homogeneous population, like the United States, for the boundary to follow strictly geographical lines, and the Government are surely aware that that it is not possible in an ancient country like India. English rule and English education have created a tie of sympathy amongst Bengalis—a fact which must have been unknown to Government when it made its partition proposals.

55. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th March says:—

BASUMATI,
March 5th, 1904.

"What have we learned from the agitation?"

What have we learned from the agitation? Where arguments and appeals fail, we can only bow to the decision of Government. We are perforce to believe that what Government ordains for us is not a curse but a boon. But one should hesitate to accept a constant succession of boons. The sense of self-respect, which is impaired by the constant receipt of favours, at length becomes so deadened that we are no longer ashamed to beg for favours whenever we are confronted with the least difficulty. If grief had not obscured our vision we might have known what would be the result of this agitation, judging from what happened on the occasion of the Age of Consent Bill. But Government has ignored even this powerful agitation in Eastern Bengal. The reason is, Government cannot place the peoples' feelings before the exigencies of politics. It knows that a single frown of the authorities effects a change in the ideas of their subjects.

So all our agitations and our wailings have been useless. Where deep political necessities exist, we can only bow to the inevitable. God has deprived us of every other source of strength except infinite patience.

56. A correspondent of the same paper writes as follows:—

BASUMATI.

Standing crops damaged by Mr. Garrett's shikar party.

Mr. Garrett came to Agdigha in Nator subdivision to hunt. On the 5th *Falgun* he was accompanied by numerous men mounted on elephants and horses and a large number on foot. The standing crops in villages Mominpur and Kisherpur were greatly damaged by the movements of his immense retinue.

57. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 5th March contains Book I of a mock-heroic poem in which the proposed partition of Bengal is held up to ridicule in verses alternately pompous and doggerel.

NAVAYUG,
March 5th, 1904.

The proposed partition of Bengal.

58. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th March says:—

BANGAVASI,
March 5th, 1904.

The partition question.

Call a halt for the present. With all respect we say to the Viceroy as to the Lieutenant-Governor, "Would it not be better to refrain from considering and deciding this question for the present?" That the matter is a grave one, admits of no doubt. Many questions are under the consideration of the Viceroy at this moment. His Excellency has undertaken many administrative reforms, and these he should first bring to a successful conclusion. They are not an easy task. In

addition there are important and secret matters of State to cause anxiety. Not to speak of the Tibet mission, there is the Russo-Japanese war. In the midst of all these preoccupations it will not be easy to decide on a difficult question like the partition of Bengal. If, under these circumstances, a settlement of the question is attempted, numerous difficulties will be sure to crop up. That is why we say, "Stop for the present."

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 6th, 1904.

59. In continuation of its criticism of the Viceroy's East Bengal speeches, the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 6th March writes as follows:—

The Viceroy's East Bengal speeches. At Dacca His Excellency said, "I have come rather to ascertain from inquiry the trend of local opinion . . . and also to give you certain explanations about the point of view of the Government." What have these objects to do with the vituperations in which he indulged in the speeches? We have never met with such inconsistency in a speech delivered by any responsible person. Again, Lord Curzon began by saying that "addresses would not be worth receiving if the subjects on which the public were thinking more strongly than any other were excluded from them on the ground that the public view happened not to be in complete accord with that of the Government." But the very next moment he said, "One of yours addresses speaks of this universal feeling of apprehension. . . . But when you ask me to believe that the feeling is universal I am unable to follow you. . . . I find that in the Dacca and Mymensingh districts alone there are only 12 per cent. who can either speak or write any language at all, and only 1 per cent. who understands English. What do the remainder know, except that they have been told that an unfeeling and despotic Government is going to deprive them of their rights and liberties" Now, who will represent the public view in addresses if not the educated persons, the existence of 1 per cent. of whom Lord Curzon has admitted? Will the illiterate rustics be able to do that, or would the Viceroy have liked it better if addresses were presented to him by them instead of by educated people?

As to irrelevance, we may be permitted to say that His Excellency's reference to the instructions circulated by the Mymensingh Association, his abuse of those inhabitants of Vikrampore who are at present residing in Calcutta, and many other things in his speeches have no relevancy so far as the main points at issue are concerned.

Lastly, as to the want of logic in His Excellency's East Bengal speeches. If anybody desired to show the want of logic in them, he should first of all see if there is in them any logic at all, and he would then find how difficult his task was. In his Mymensingh speech Lord Curzon met the nine heads of objection raised by the people with such arguments as, "There is, of course, no foundation for any such statement," "This is equally fictitious," "It is scarcely necessary to characterise such an invention," "I have seen the equally absurd suggestion" "Of course this is a mere fabrication," &c. Such is the logic of the Viceroy's arguments. Truly has the *Bengalee* said, "It is not quite a dignified spectacle for the Viceroy to appear before the people in the rôle of an irate pedagogue about to chastise his pupils."

60. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says:—

RANGALAY,
March 6th, 1904.

Rumoured appointment of Mr. K. G. Gupta to the Bengal Board of Revenue.

There is another news to make us proud. If it proves true, it will be something to speak of. Mr. Krishna Gobinda Gupta, the Commissioner of the Orissa Division, is probably going to be a Member of the Bengal Board of Revenue. Mr. Gupta will act temporarily for the Hon'ble Mr. Buckland. No Indian—not to speak of any Bengali—has yet occupied this office. This post is just next to that of the Lieutenant-Governor. Sir Andrew Fraser will only earn the respect of the educated community of Bengal if he makes this appointment. We hear on all sides that Mr. Buckland considers Mr. Gupta better fitted than all the other Commissioners. Mr. Gupta acted as Secretary for a long time, was for long Excise Commissioner of Bengal, and is now Commissioner of Orissa. Mr. Gupta is the officer best fitted for the post of principal Revenue Officer in Bengal. We offer a thousand thanks to Mr. Buckland for his recognition of real merit.

And we are also grateful to the Lieutenant Governor for having assented to this arrangement. May God bless them both!

61. The following appears in the English columns of the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 7th March:—

DACCA GAZETTE,
March 7th, 1904.

The partition question.

That the proposal, formulated by the India Government, of dividing Bengal into two for administrative purposes has created amongst the people concerned a general feeling of alarm and dismay, nobody, not even Lord Curzon, will have the hardihood to deny. We expected that Lord Curzon would do his best to assuage those feelings by removing all misapprehensions on the subject, but as fate would have it, His Excellency's three memorable speeches at Chittagong, Dacca, and Mymensingh have, instead of throwing oil over troubled waters, cast a gloom of despair all round. His Excellency assured us in his Chittagong speech that he had an open mind on the subject, and we frankly own we felt greatly encouraged at this declaration of faith as to the final issue of the matter; for, we were confident that a far-seeing statesman like Lord Curzon, who has the reputation of seeing everything for himself, will take no time to be convinced of the utter impracticability of the scheme propounded by his Secretary in the face of the objections based on irrefutable grounds advanced by the people to be affected by it. The subject has been discussed threadbare from all sides and there is very little new to be said at this stage of the controversy.

We have, ere this, pointed out the statutory difficulties that stand in the way of giving effect to Mr. Secretary Risley's scheme. But Mr. Risley has tried to avoid that question arbitrarily, and let us add, with dogmatism so common with Indian bureaucrats, that relief to the Bengal Government "can be afforded not, as has been suggested on several previous occasions, by the organic changes in the form of Government, but only by actual transference of territory." We wish Lord Curzon had taken the people into his confidence and publicly stated the reason why the much-needed relief cannot be afforded by organic changes. We fondly hoped that Lord Curzon would enlighten us on the point and thus remove all misapprehensions on the subject. But, to our misfortune, His Lordship did nothing of the kind save and except emphasizing his abhorrence for the so-called Secretariat Government. His Excellency spoke thus in his Dacca speech:—

"I would further add that an Executive Council in Bengal could only, in my opinion, lead to further centralisation and Secretariat Government, which are the very evils that we desire to avoid. I pray you therefore to dismiss from your minds, as in the least degree likely under the present conditions, the idea of an Executive Council for Bengal. It is my firm conviction that I could not bequeath to this province a worse boon than that which has been thus innocently suggested."

We will only say, such remarks come with ill grace from one who has won his spurs in the political world as an Under-Secretary of State for India. But it seems that Lord Curzon has counted without his host. If His Lordship speaks in such disparaging terms of the Executive Council system, there are lots of others, as great, if not greater, authorities than himself who speak highly of the Council system which is, according to them, a great check upon over-centralisation. Sir William Lee-Warner, who knows the Bombay system of Government more than anybody else by his long, intimate connection with it and who is, by common consent, regarded as the greatest living authority on the Indian Council system of Government, has said in emphatic terms that "the Council is a check upon the dangerous system of over-centralisation." Sir William has even gone the length of saying that the Council system has been "justified by results." We confess, we are on the horns of a dilemma. When doctors differ, whom are we to look up to for advice and guidance? Of course, our individual opinions will count for nothing, and knowing this, it is of no use to reiterate them here. This much we know, the people of Bombay and Madras have never uttered a word of complaint against the system; on the contrary, they would fight tooth and nail for its maintenance should the India Government in an evil moment ever seriously contemplate, as in the case of Bengal, any disturbance of the arrangement they have enjoyed for over a century and which has worked so satisfactorily, bringing peace and contentment in its train to the peoples living under it. Not only is Sir William so emphatic in his admiration of the Council system; even Sir Charles Elliott and Sir Charles Stevens, two distinguished retired

officers of the Government and who once ruled and controlled Bengal as the head of the Government, have given their opinions in favour of an Executive Council for Bengal. Even Sir Antony MacDonnell, than whom a better authority to speak on the subject we do not know, has, it is stated, recommended the creation of an Executive Council for Bengal. Surely, Lord Curzon will not find it so easy to scatter these weighty opinions, formed after life-long experience, to the four winds, as he has in the case of the arguments advanced by the popular party.

Now comes the last straw to break the camel's back. There is a saying amongst us that *Ramayana*, the great epic poem of India, describing the exploits of Rama, was composed long before the birth of its hero. Similarly it appears that the far-seeing sages of England, long, long before the birth of the present generation of Bengalis, had made provisions for the management of the millions—dumb millions no doubt—of the sons of Bengal that would come into existence under the peaceful conditions of life vouchsafed to them by the benign British Government. Without further introduction we proceed direct to what we mean. It appears, so far back as 1833 it was stipulated by Statute 3 and 4, William IV, that the territories subject to the Government of Fort William in Bengal should be divided into two distinct Presidencies. We need hardly state, as it is known to all students of history, that the then Government of Fort William comprised Bengal and the North-Western Provinces, and it was provided in the said statute that Bengal and the North-Western Provinces should each have a Governor with Executive Councils similar to those of Bombay and Madras. But it was not then given effect to on the score of financial considerations, and a Lieutenant-Governorship was temporarily created for the North-Western Provinces. In 1853 it was again formally declared by Statute 16 and 17, Vic., confirming the suspension of the creation of the two proposed Presidencies, and under section 16 of the said statute the Governor-General ceased to be the Governor of Bengal, and pending its creation into a Governorship, as provided in Statute 3 and 4, William IV, clause 85, a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed for Bengal. Furthermore, it has been declared under the India Council Act (1861), 24 and 25, Vic., clause 69, that the Governor-General in Council will have no power to repeal or amend the provisions of the above-mentioned Statute 3 and 4, William IV, clause 85, or of 16 and 17, Vic., c. 95. It is thus clearly shown that no option has been left to the Government of India to play any game of duck and drake with reference to the administration of Bengal, which though a sport to them, is certainly death to us, the peoples concerned. It now behoves the Government of India to faithfully carry out the imperative behest of the Parliament in the matter. If relief to Bengal has become imperatively necessary, as we have been told, then let the relief be given in the direction indicated by the authority finally responsible before God and men for the good government of India. After this exposition of the real situation, we do not see, how the Government of Lord Curzon can any longer defer the accomplishment of the grand object the framers of the statutes referred to above, had in view.

Give Ceasar his due. These statutory difficulties stand as so many stumbling-blocks in the way of the sweeping and summary operations of Lord Curzon, separating the different limbs from the main body. We have not yet seen this phase of the question discussed anywhere, and the honour of driving this last nail into the coffin belongs to Dacca and its leaders who are conducting the agitation anent territorial dismemberment. Lord Curzon knows it better than anybody else that discretion is the better part of valour, and we have no doubt His Lordship will give yet another proof of his good sense in this connection as he did with reference to the agitation over the selection of the Victoria Memorial site.

We can hardly persuade ourselves to believe that Lord Curzon did not know that this possible congestion of work of the Bengal Government had long, long before this been anticipated and provided for by the far-seeing statesmen of England by Parliamentary enactments, before which even an all-powerful Governor-General like Lord Curzon is bound to bow. There is no getting out of this. We hope Lord Curzon will now submit to the inevitable with good grace.

62. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 7th March says:—

DACCA GAZETTE,
March 7th, 1904.

The Viceroy's visit to East Bengal. There is the proverbial *Delhi-ka-laddu*, which causes pain both to those who have eaten it as well as to those who have not. Lord Curzon's visit to East Bengal has been much like that article. Our eagerness and expectations before his visit are only equalled by our disappointment and dismay now that the visit is over. This is why we say that Lord Curzon's visit is to us like a veritable *Delhi-ka-laddu*.

The Viceroy has made speeches at Chittagong, Dacca, and Mymensingh. As we had expected much, so our disappointment has been proportionately keen. His speeches have not been as halm to our wounded hearts. It is clear from his words that the Viceroy is determined on partition. He has deviated from the strict line of argument, and has merely made some irrelevant statements. We never thought the policy of division would go so far.

III.—LEGISLATION.

63. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 1st March says:—

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
March 1st, 1904.

The Official Secrets Act.

Our Government is getting gradually used to the policy of repression. The Official Secrets Act is the first instance of this. Henceforth the rule is, no outsider shall enter into the precincts of any Government office. The post-office remains open to the public; but neither vakils nor mukhtars will be allowed inside the offices attached to the Courts. This will only add to the opportunities for taking bribes.

64. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 6th March writes as follows:—

RANGALAYA,
March 6th, 1904.

The passing of the Official Secrets Bill.

What was to be has come to pass. The Official Secrets Bill has become the law of the land. Who is there that has the power to prevent the passing of a measure which Government wants to pass? If Government told us that its will is law, that whatever it says shall be, that he whom it wants to save shall be saved, and he whom it wants to kill shall be killed, that would set our mind at comparative rest. But, then, Government's thoughtless indulgence makes us meddle where we should not, and this leads to the passing of rigorous laws every day. That is what makes us anxious. We should realise the plain truth that we are a weak, helpless, and subject people, and that we must therefore bear all.

It is with a view to hide the holes in its house that Government has enacted this law. No house but has its holes, and the higher a house is the more holes it has. There are innumerable holes in the colossal edifice of British Empire. These holes are not to be stopped with rags, for a blast is enough to blow all these rags away. That is why Government tells us, "Shut your eyes, all of you. Take care never to peer into our holes. What is it to you whether we have any holes in our house or not?" We must say in reply to this:—"It shall be as you say. We who have to do with a pot with a hole in its bottom, will say nothing. We will be as blind and as dumb." In days of old, mutes and eunuchs used to be kept in the harems of the Nawabs. Thanks to the Arms Act, we three hundred millions of men and women have metaphorically become eunuchs, and thanks to the Sedition, the Defamation, and the newly passed Official Secrets Act we have now become mute as well. Let Government now indulge freely in the luxury of administration at ease and without fear of disturbance.

Our old Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Andrew, pathetically observed:—"This Bengal would seem to be a land of wizards. Letters that I write in my secret chamber find their way into newspapers. I punish my officials and the fact gets into newspapers. I make a new proposal and the Press publishes it. This is very annoying. I have therefore to keep my counsel and keep with myself copies of all letters that I write. This is a strain too heavy for my advanced years." Following the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Edward Law said:—"Friend, I, too, have the same trouble. Not an item of my financial

statement can remain secret. The contents of papers which I send to Bombay in sealed covers, become known to the citizens before they have reached that city. No business relating to the finances can be done secretly. Let secrets therefore get wind if they must, but let not the people talk of them and publish them in newspapers by any means. What is objectionable is that secrets should be proclaimed, as it were, by beat of drum. Let us, therefore, break the drum and the drum stick too." And the law was passed.

Not one of the amendments proposed by the Hon'ble Dr. Asutosh or the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale was accepted. As soon as the high-minded Sir Arundel Arundel shook his head and said "no" to anything, the puppets of Government, like musical instruments, pitched to the same tune, shook their heads and said "no." When everything depends on votes, what is there to fear? By means of the votes at its command, Government can make out black to be white and white to be black. What a pity that our intelligent countrymen should fail to see this plain truth. The only purpose that our Babus serve in the Council is that of ornamental figure-heads. The Hon'ble Dr. Asutosh should know that he is an Hon'ble simply because of his moustache, and the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale should know that he is an Hon'ble simply because of his yellow complexion, his frank, boyish face, and his picturesque turban. Both of them spoke very eloquently, both said very hard things. The English members listened to them as they would have listened to speeches coming from a phonograph. English speech in Indian mouths vastly amused the white members.

Government wants to keep its secrets and thereby to preserve its prestige, to gag the public and thereby to prevent the divulgence of secrets in speech or writing. People must do what appears best to their judgment and what their power enables them to undertake, and we can have nothing to object to it. But all the same we must tell our rulers, who think themselves very clever, that we can know a hundred-fold more than what is published in the Press. Even such esoteric things as love-intrigues, secret walks in the Eden Garden, the nature of entertainments in the Viceregal palace in the winter season, the reason of the sudden transfer of this officer and of the sudden promotion of that officer become known to us. There are peons and bearers and sirdars and mehters and the whisky bottle. What is, then, there to hinder us from knowing these secrets? But since Government wishes it we will remain dumb and say nothing. As boys we played a silent game, and as men also we will say "mum" and seal our lips.

DAILY HITAVADI,
March 7th, 1904.

65. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th March writes as follows:—

The Official Secrets Act. At last the Official Secrets Bill has been passed in spite of universal opposition. Lord Curzon's words of hope have not succeeded in removing the popular anxiety. There is now no knowing when newspaper correspondents will incur the displeasure of officials and be sent to jail.

In spite of the modifications which were introduced into the original Bill, the Act, as it has been passed, gives sufficient powers to officials to enable them to crush newspapers, of course, Indian and not Anglo-Indian. We keenly feel the loss of our independence. A sword hangs over our heads by a thread.

His Excellency said that if "any real injustice should be perpetrated under the Bill, from that moment the Act would be doomed" This is a statement which would deceive none but a child. In this world the fruits of men's actions are not reaped soon or at once. Until British traditions are followed and Lord Curzon's good sense returns to him, we shall continue to be the slaves of his arbitrariness, and deprived of our right of free criticism. Our only hope lies in the Great Dispenser of All. Let either a change take place in His Excellency's views or his administration come to an end, else we are doomed. Only if he gives up his wonted self-conceit or if his successor chooses to calmly reconsider the matter, then we may hope for better days. It is, however, not in man's power to check the course of progress. Even men more powerful than Lord Curzon have not been able to do so. What has never occurred in the past will not occur in future. The present state of things cannot continue long in the light of civilisation. British subjects as we are, we shall regain our natural rights.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

66. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 27th February writes as follows:—

Distress in Balasore.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 27th, 1904.

Balasore, Kamarda, Dahunda.—The majority of the inhabitants are respectable people and cultivators. Failure of crops for three years in succession has impoverished many. Owing to there being no crops in Dahunda, Bansdiha, Karihanta, Beldah, etc., all villages in Kamarda pargana, the inhabitants are in great distress. From *Baisakh* last they have been selling their utensils, cattle, etc., to pay the Government revenue and the *chaukidari*-tax and to feed and clothe themselves. The little of grain that remains in these villages does not represent an average of a maund or a maund and-a-half per bigha. Already it is doubtful if some are getting even one meal daily. The correspondent's prayer is that Government should advance loans without interest to meet the two instalments of Government revenue due for the current English year, and also exempt the villagers from liability to pay two instalments of the *chaukidari*-tax.

67. A correspondent writes to the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 1st March as follows:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
March 1st, 1904.

Famine in a village in the
Burdwan district.

Famine has appeared in village Bilwagram, thana Ausgram, in the district of Burdwan. There has been a total failure of crops in this and adjoining villages for three or four years in succession. Most of the inhabitants are without food, even many respectable people are in distress. Many are found diseased and emaciated and two or three persons in Bilwagram have died for want of food. The *mahajans* have no grains in their stores, nor is there any rich man here who can help the sufferers who find neither charity nor employment. Many have left and still are leaving the place for dearth of food. Unless relief is speedily given, many are sure to die from starvation.

68. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 8th March has the following:—

NIHAR,
March 8th, 1904.

Distress in the Contai subdivi-
sion of the Midnapore district.

For the last three years, for want of a drainage channel, crops have failed in Daudpur, Uddhabpur, Srirampur, Shyampur, Kamalpur and fifteen or sixteen other mauzas included in the Contai subdivision. Many people have left their homes, yet the demand to pay up revenue in full is being made rigorously. To meet it, domestic utensils are being sold off. Unless speedy relief is provided, the inhabitants will either have to emigrate or die.

The State does not provide any facilities for the raising of crops, but exacts the revenue due to it to the last farthing. Is this just? It behoves the authorities to attend to the matter.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

69. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 1st March says:—

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
March 1st, 1904.

Government disregarding public
opinion.

The British Government has given us liberty to express our opinions freely. If the official Secrets Act does not restrain our tongue, then we shall not be deprived of this liberty. But we may ask: Is the Indian Empire governed only in the interests of the governed? It is true our rulers do not take any tribute from us. But the conquering race, the English, are constantly bleeding the country. There is no end to this bleeding. It is constantly increasing. How greatly have English officers and merchants benefited by this bleeding! The Eurasians are now joining in this work. Directly or indirectly this empire is helping to feed the Briton.

Then, again, our rulers completely ignore our opinion. Ram Chandra used to have secret emissaries to collect the opinions of his subjects. Nowadays even our loudly-voiced opinions are studiously ignored. At the present moment, one such instance of official indifference is causing us great heart-ache. Government is as deaf to all our meetings, all our wailings. The Viceroy must be aware of all this agitation, yet he has disregarded the objections made by the people.

What is the good of serving under a great master, unless that master looks to the moral and physical welfare of his servants, and tries to win their affection? Who will listen to our heart's cry, to whom shall we address our

appeals? We are crying in the wilderness: who will respond to our cries? Let our rulers do what they will, we shall never cease to pour out our sorrow freely. He who is the King of Kings, will He not listen?

BHARAT MITRA,
March 5th, 1904.

70. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th March is sorry that when the train carrying His Excellency the Viceroy was approaching Mymensingh, the people who stood on both sides of the railroad did not *salaam* him.

The Viceroy not *salaamed* in Mymensingh.

RATNAKAR,
March 5th, 1904.

71. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 5th March contains a short poem from a correspondent, in which English ascendancy in the country is contrasted with the misery and political subjection of the Indians.

A poem.

RANGALAYA,
March 6th, 1904.

72. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 6th March says:—

The Victoria Memorial.

The Memorial will be built in the Italian Renaissance style. We have seen the plan of the proposed Memorial. It reminds us partly of the Standard Life Office and partly of the General Post Office buildings. We do not like the proposed plan. It is to the Empress of India that we are raising this Memorial. The money is ours, but the building is to be erected in the bastard Italian style of the Middle Ages. The Saracenic style might have been adopted. We see that there can be no second Taj built in this world.

There is another point. The Memorial will not be built throughout of marble. It will be built entirely of brick and only encased in marble. But the saline action of the atmosphere in Bengal will not be long in pulling down the blocks of marble and even in corroding the brickwork inside.

RANGALAYA,
March 6th, 1904.

73. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 6th March writes as follows under the heading, "Sovereign and subject":—

"Sovereign and subject."

The Sovereign's duty is to punish the wicked and protect the good. Our Sovereign, however, punishes the wicked, but does not protect the good. His idea is that if the wicked are punished, the good can protect themselves. That is why the English law contains nothing but provisions for punishing the wicked. India had never before so many laws and regulations as she has under the present English Government. This might lead one to suppose that the Indians have become rather too much wicked under British rule. But as a matter of fact we find no opportunity to get wicked nowadays. There is the police outpost in every village, the Police Magistrate in every subdivision, the collection of troops at every thana, there are the railways, the telegraphic lines, the detective officers, the Honorary Magistrates, the gubernatorial tours and, above all, the disarmed condition of the people. Who to commit wickedness, when to commit it, and with whom to commit? Besides this, our English education and physical degeneration make us unfit for the commission of wickedness. You know what we do, what we eat, and even when and in what language we carry on love conversations with our wives.

And yet there is no end of your distrust, no end of your repression. You are binding us with more and more chains, adding knots to knots; but not even these satisfy you. You have enacted the law of sedition and defamation. Why then have you enacted an official secrets law?

Why, O merciful rulers, have you bound us with the thousand and one fetters of law?

We do whatever you bid us do, and still you distrust us. We serve you in every capacity; you are nowhere without us. Your body extends over the heads of black men like white lilies covering a sheet of black water. Why should you then distrust us?

Great is my faith in you. I follow your advice everywhere. The articles you manufacture I use for every necessity and luxury of life, and I consider myself blessed if you condescend to cross my threshold.

There is distrust in every section of your law, in your system of administration, in the official appointments you make; there is distrust in your social movements, and in your conversation; and because you distrust me so much that you now and then try to hoodwink me as if I were a fool. It is because you distrust me that you are going to dismember Bengal; that you have recourse to the plea of "personal supervision"; that you have framed the Universities Bill; that you have passed the Official Secrets Act; that you

appointed the Police Commission; that you cannot extend the permanent settlement to every place; that you do not take me in your volunteer corps, although the ebony-black Portuguese *feringi*, wearing a hat and coat, enjoys the privilege. What more shall I say? It is an endless story.

When between you and me there is the relation of Sovereign and subject, the relation of husband and wife, the relation of the protector and the protected, so much distrust can make neither of us happy, and, as a matter of fact, it has not made us happy. You have intelligence, you have talent, you have foresight, you have strength, you have spirit, you have firmness, you are heroic, calm, and wise;—I pray you, lord, slacken the reins that you hold in your hand, trust us a little, give us a little indulgence, give us a little freedom, that we may enjoy a little relief and you relaxation from hard labour. Too much grinding makes the flour distasteful, and too tight binding makes even the meek cow restive.

URIYA PAPERS.

74. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 27th February states that although clouds were visible at times in the week under report, yet there was no rainfall. The temperature is rising.

UTKALDIPKA,
Feb. 27th, 1904.

The weather.

75. According to the same paper the health of the Cuttack town is good.

UTKALDIPKA.

76. All the native papers of Orissa deeply mourn the death of the late Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, who by dint of his genius and perseverance rose to the high position he held for so long a time in the scientific world. He was a great votary of science and established a Scientific Association at Calcutta, and succeeded in erecting a large and beautiful building for its location in that city.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS OF ORISSA.

The death of Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar mourned.

77. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 24th February states that Balasore is not yet free from cholera, and that the Balasore Municipality is trying its best to minimise the effects of the disease.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.
Feb. 24th, 1904.

Cholera in Balasore town.

78. The same paper, as also its contemporary of the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 25th February, states that the students of the Balasore Zilla Shcool, as also their guardians, fully appreciate the valuable services rendered to them by Babu Trailokyanath Ghose, the Head Master of the Balasore Zilla School, who worked in their midst for a large number of years. This was evidenced by the interesting entertainment that the Balasore public, under the leadership of Bhyan Abdus Sobhan Khan, gave in his honour. They are all sorry to see him transferred from the Balasore district.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

The Head Master of the Balasore Zilla School.

79. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 24th February is sorry to learn that a number of dacoities have been committed in the northern part of the Balasore district and that the offenders have not yet been brought to justice.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

80. The territorial redistribution question still engages the attention of the Uriya papers, a large number arguing in favour of a united Orissa under the Bengal Government and a small number in favour of a united Orissa either under the Central Provinces Administration or under a separate Chief Commissioner.

THE URIYA PAPERS.

The territorial redistribution question.

ASSAM PAPERS.

81. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 29th February says:—

A candidate for a literary pension in Sylhet.

The Bengal Government grants literary pensions for the encouragement of men of letters in that province. There is no such pension in Assam, especially in Sylhet. Babu Achuyta Chandra Chaudhuri Tatwanidhi Gaur Bhusan has rendered great services to Bengali literature. The works he has written are praiseworthy in every way. He is a candidate for a literary pension, and it behoves the Assam Administration to consider his prayer favourably.

PARIDARSAK,
Feb. 29th, 1904.

SILCHAR,
Feb. 29th, 1904.

82. The *Silchar* [Cachar] of the 29th February writes as follows:—

Unalterable resolution.

Lord Curzon on the proposed
partition of Bengal.

Lord Curzon is rich, learned, intelligent, sweet-tongued, good-looking, far-sighted, and versed in state-craft. He has few equals in India, nay, even in England. But he is the personification of pride. He looks on the world as his plaything, and it is his belief that there is nobody equal to him in ability and that nobody can see things so well as he can. He indeed appreciates the worth of great men, but he does not recognise the great men of India as such at all. Were it not for this pride, Lord Curzon would indeed stand peerless. But this pride, we think, is after all a good quality. For the absolute ruler of three hundred millions would find it impossible to remain true to his good intentions if he were to attend to all their innumerable wants and complaints. That is why he frankly admits, "Nobody can understand things as I understand them." Lord Curzon is thus like a second *Vishma*. His resolution is unalterable, and once he says a thing shall be done, done it shall be. When we were told that he would not consult the High Court, that the Chief Commissioner of Assam had agreed to hear Counsel in appeal cases, and that the impressment of labour had been abolished in Cachar, we understood that Assam would cease to be a non-regulation province, and become what Bengal now is.

Although we have not yet learned the result of his tours in Chittagong, Dacca, and Mymensingh, still we can confidently affirm that the decision of this second *Vishma* is unalterable. But in the midst of all this rejoicing there is matter for sorrow. If Dacca should become the capital, then it would be difficult for the educated natives of Assam, and specially of Sylhet, to secure service. Still, the days of Assam's sorrow will be over, and the real Assamese will be benefited.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 12th March, 1904.